A CYNIC'S MEDITATIONS

WALTER · PULITZER

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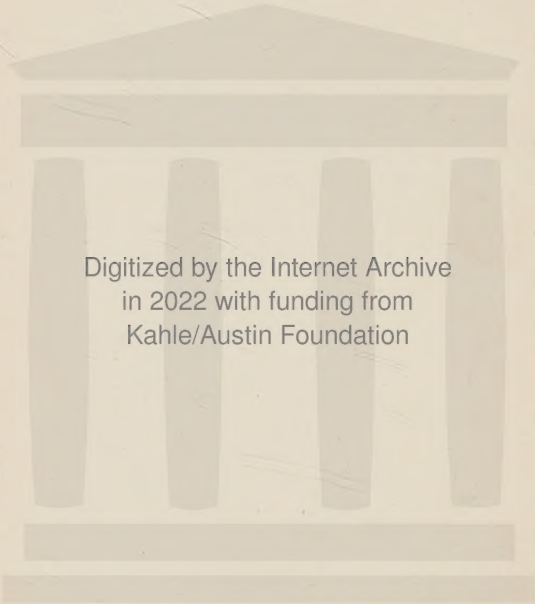

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ONE touch of merriment makes the whole world—grin.

A Cynic's Meditations

By WALTER PULITZER

With numerous illustrations
by SEDDIE ASPELL

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[*A Cynic's Meditations*]

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NO satirist is a hero to his own epigram.

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TO MY FATHER

ALBERT PULITZER

A WIDOW and her weeds are soon parted.

AS we ascend Love's Ladder of Light our heads swim. Paradoxically, some of us (the weak ones) fall with giddiness —and are ***saved.*** Some of us (the strong ones) reach the top rung— and are ***lost.***

DESIRE most frequently haunts the corridors of Inaccessibility.

IF a husband and wife are only one, how does it take two to make a quarrel?

WHAT you call temper in your wife, you call temperament in yourself.

IN the beginning the woman forsakes the world for the man; in the end the man forsakes the woman for the world.

I.

THE man is on his knees.

II.

The woman is on his knees.

III.

Both are on their knees.

SOCIETY is the mother of—dissension.

SOCIETY'S "Come in" depends largely on the size of your *in*come.

SOME women utilize the Present in such a way that the Future will not find them without a Past.

THE only certain thing about a woman is her uncertainty.

A WOMAN'S most happy topic is self; after that, some other woman.

JEALOUSY is the corner-stone of affection.

WHEN Jealousy flies out of the window, it usually takes Love along with it for company.

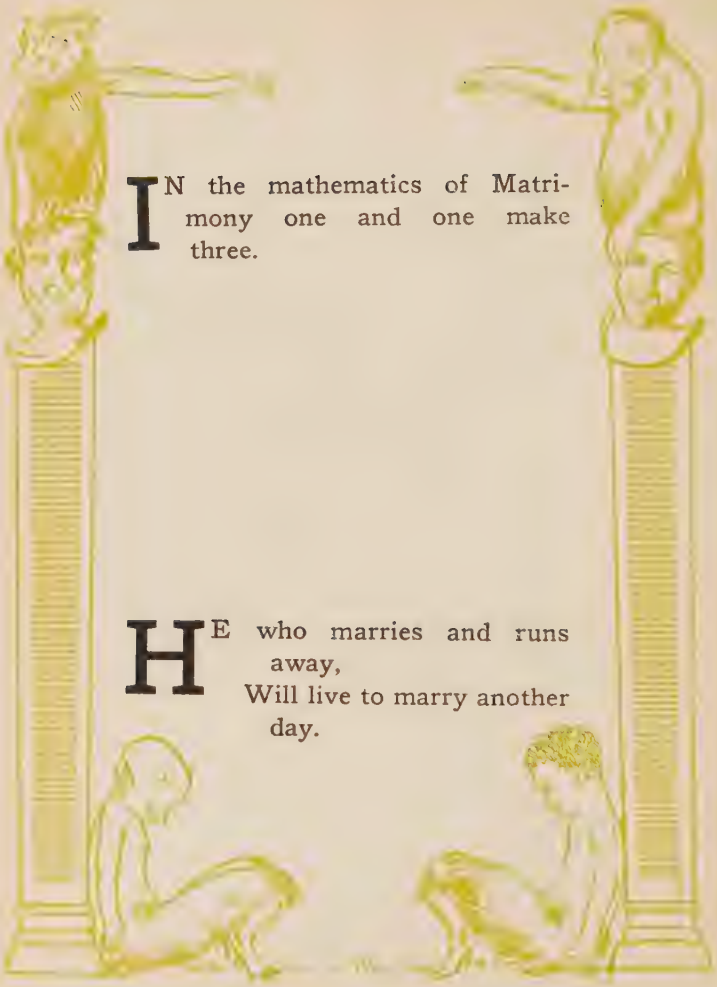
ONE thing that always carries its face value—a kiss.

THE difference 'twixt a kiss on the brow and a kiss on the lips is that, whereas the first has finished its travels in the act, the second has only just started out.

HOW is it that the Temperance question is of all questions the one always discussed with least *temperance?*

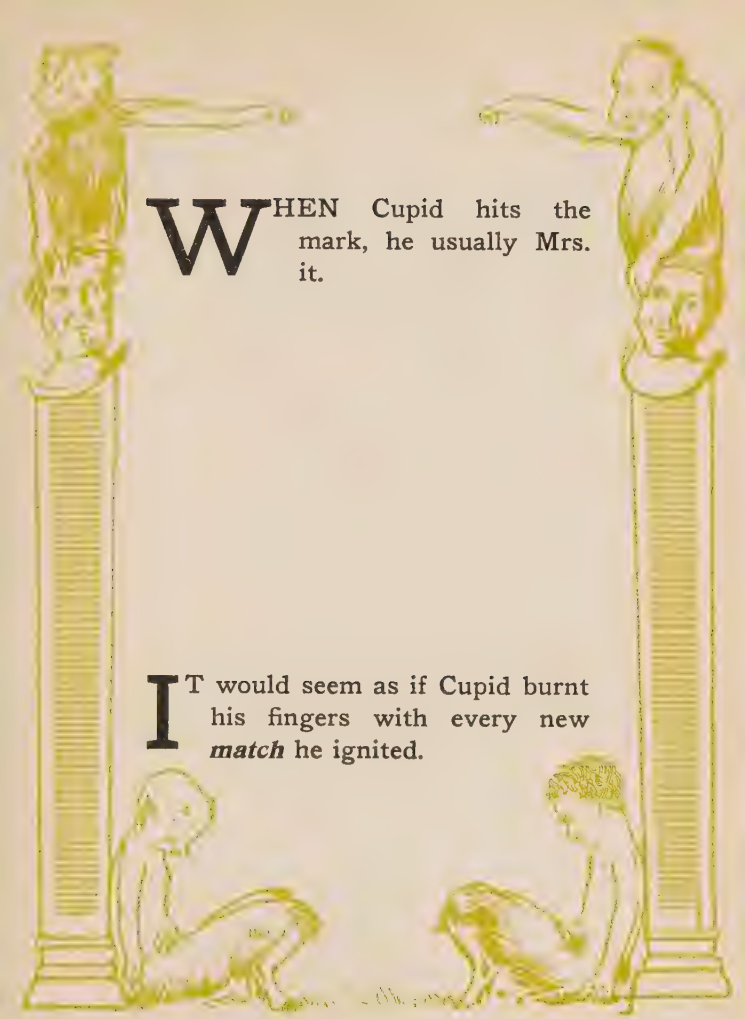
THE temperance cranks should always remember that one swallow—does not make a drunkard.

THE "ladies'-man" is usually *no* lady's man.



IN the mathematics of Matrimony one and one make three.

HE who marries and runs away,
Will live to marry another day.



WHEN Cupid hits the mark, he usually Mrs. it.

IT would seem as if Cupid burnt his fingers with every new ***match*** he ignited.

BEHOLD the difference! For consolation the widow has her weeds, the widower his weed.

A WIDOW is never more dangerous than when she tells a youth that she never was really happy in her married life.

ONE man's tragedy is another man's farce.

THERE is seldom the funeral that does not make some one person the happier.

IF love is blind, how is it, pray,
That love will always find a way?

WHAT puzzles a man is that a woman will travel such a long road with him to reach The Precipice—and then turn quietly back.

IT isn't so much that a woman wouldn't, but she hates you to think she would.

HOME has its use if it even only affords a man a place where he can vent his temper.

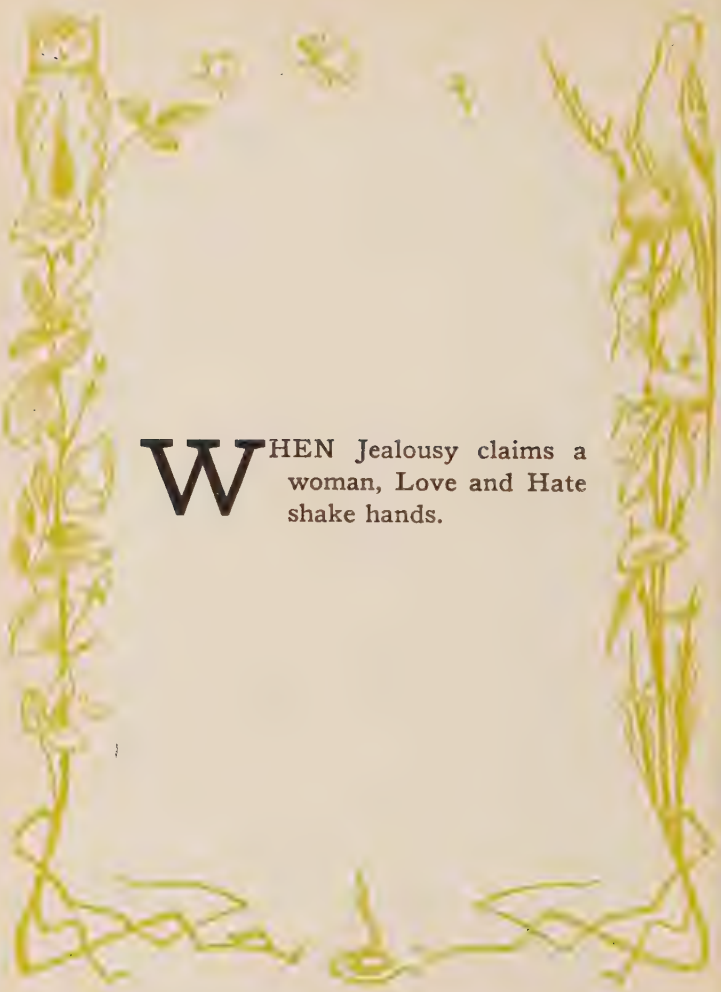
A CLUB, bachelors will tell you, is a place where you feel more at home than at home!

A WOMAN is never so happy as when she refuses to forgive.

NOTHING hurts a woman so much as when a man won't give her the opportunity of saying "No."

DRINK, and the world drinks with you. Settle the bill, and you settle it alone.

A FRIEND in need is a friend —we usually shun.



WHEN Jealousy claims a woman, Love and Hate shake hands.

HOW can a man fight a woman square? Either he must submit to take the worst of it, or—a mean advantage—***kiss her!***

TO kiss your beloved on the back of her neck is a very settled state of love.

SOME disagreeable persons are not so bad after all, once they get right down abusive.

HOW often an extra presence only seems to create a vacuum!

THE naked truth looks best in a ***robe de nuit,*** trimmed with pink ribbons.

THERE are two places where the "House full" sign never is displayed. In Heaven there is always room for one more —and in the other place.

CUPID is not so childish as he looks. He can put one and one together very nicely.

ACCORDING to Cupid, the Summer Hammock can go the Winter Cozy-corner several better, when it comes to comparing notes.

JUST as one woman has managed to reform a man, another woman comes along and, with one smile, undoes all the good work.

TO many women a man is but like a mark on a slate, to be rubbed off and brought back at will.

A POET and his poem are soon parted.

DESPERATE authors require desperate remedies.

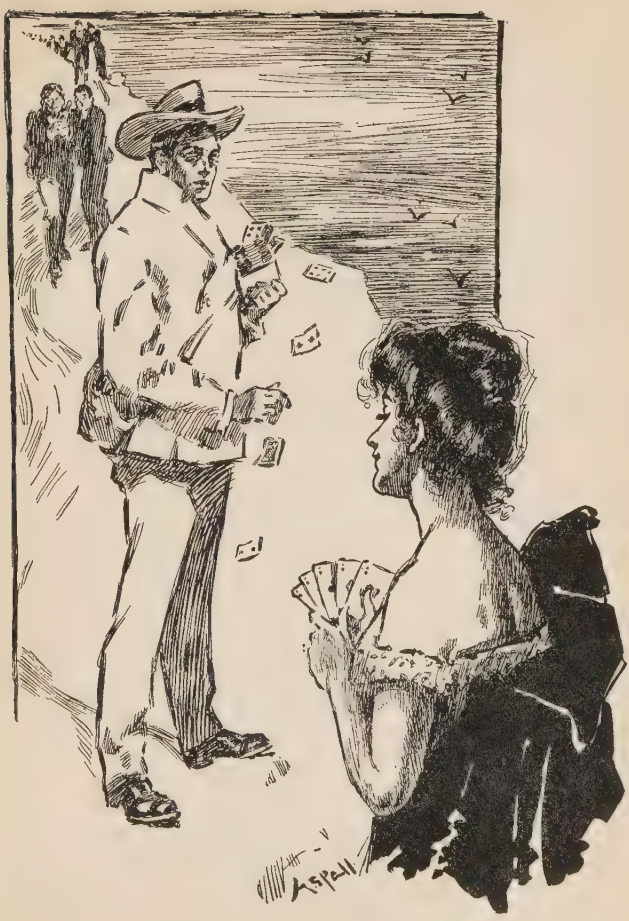
THE longer a woman guards a secret, the less importance she attaches to the disclosure of it.

IF men would not gossip so much about the gossip of women, women would have less to gossip about.

WHEN a woman begins to argue with her tempter, the Devil scratches another name in his notebook.

MOST women get what they want by saying they don't want it.

WHEN a fellow begins to start down hill, the Devil is always ready with a ***hel(l)***ping hand.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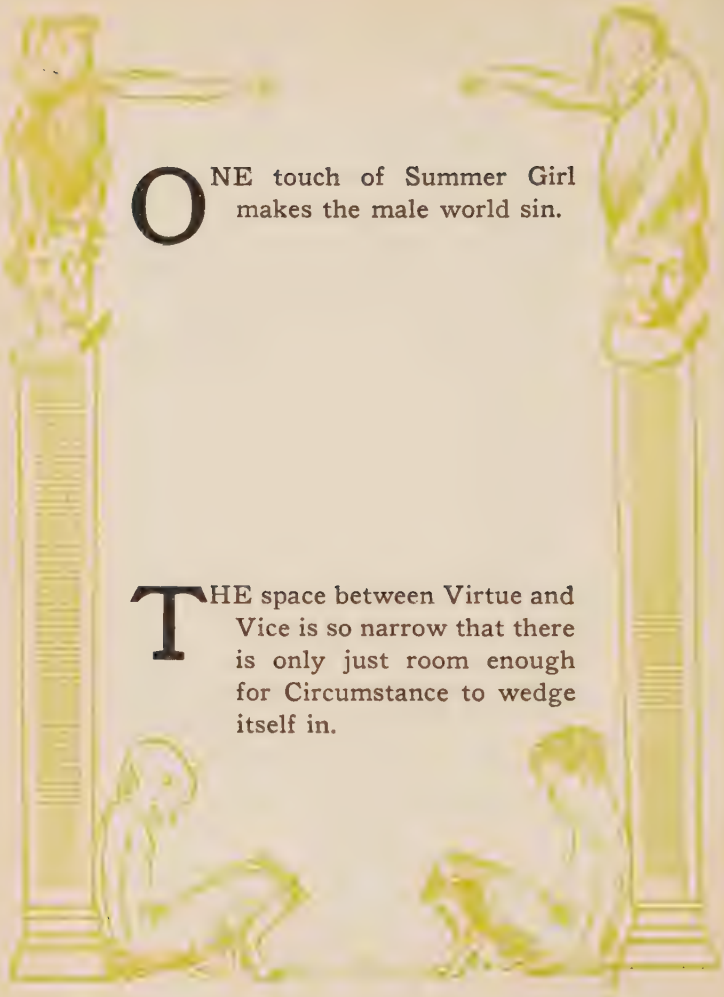
A MAN is never so utterly unoriginal as when he is love-making or praying.

TO win a difficult maiden, make love to a widow in her presence.

SOMETIMES it would be a positive pleasure to overcome temptation if one's friends would only refrain from pointing you out as a virtuous object lesson.

THE Reformer and the Showgirl are alike in that they are both kickers, and both aiming high.



ONE touch of Summer Girl makes the male world sin.

THE space between Virtue and Vice is so narrow that there is only just room enough for Circumstance to wedge itself in.

SOME men play with a woman's heart as they would an end-game in chess, and then wonder that such tactics only win for them a ***stale-mate.***

SOME men propose just to tell their chums they have been accepted.

NO actor is a hero to his leading lady.

NO actress is as red as she is painted.

THE man who pays the compliment is seldom the man who pays the bill.

IT'S the fellow who boasts he is "not a marrying man" who is the easiest to catch.

IF woman makes all the trouble in life, it's woman who makes life worth all the trouble.

DO you know that your wife is Miss appropriated?

THE saying, "Two's company, three's a crowd," must have originated with Adam when the Serpent came on the scene. Somehow, Eve didn't seem to see it.

THE man who has written love-letters must remember that there is no use in crying over spilt ink.

TOO much letter-writing has been the death of many a love affair which started out with flying colors.

IN marriage, he who hesitates is bossed.

THE lover rushes in where the husband fears to tread.

LOVE laughs at locksmiths and bravely enters. But the locksmiths have the laugh on Love as he dejectedly departs.

NO family can lay claim to an established respectability that doesn't own up to at least one black sheep.

PUT a Beggar on horseback—and he'll ride to the first place where he can sell the horse.

LOVERS' quarrels have one drawback: they always increase the love tenfold.

IN matters of love, the beginning of the end often turns out to be but the end of the beginning.

TO ask a woman what she means is almost as unwise as to ask her if she has any.

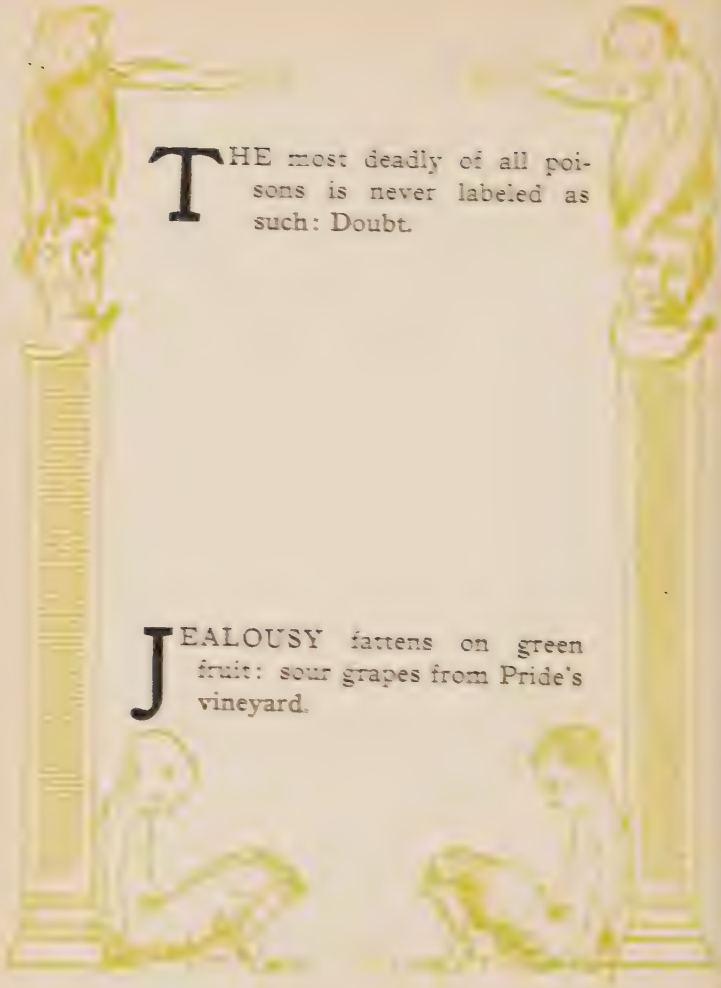
WHEN a foreign nobleman's heart-strings get tangled up with an American heiress's purse-strings, the result is invariably—***a knot.***

AN editor is known by the manuscripts he keeps—and the stamps.

A MANUSCRIPT in the publisher's hand is worth two in the author's.

WOMAN spends half her life deceiving herself—the other half before the mirror. It's the same thing.

DECEPTION is the corner-stone of Vanity.



THE most deadly of all poisons is never labeled as such: Doubt.

JEALOUSY fattens on green fruit: sour grapes from Pride's vineyard.

NOT to be even on speaking terms with Temptation, only shows your fear.

WHEN Desire begins to contract ***bills,*** there's the Devil to ***pay.***

A WOMAN without a past should be happy—but she isn't.

IN a girl's secret heart, the man who just smiles and asks no favors ever remains the one incomparable He.

THE girl who prides herself most on her self-possession is the first one to yield it up when the right man asks for it.

DON'T promise to buy your wife a diamond locket for Christmas unless you mean it. If you do, there'll only be the jeweler to pay; whereas, if you don't, there'll be the Devil.

CHRISTMAS is the time when you decide to pay your doctor something on account. You know you'll need him the day after.

COURTSHIP,
Matrimony;
Courthouse,
Alimony!

PROPINQUITY causes all marriages--and all divorces.

IT'S a wise musical comedy that knows its own father.

IT'S a wise dramatist who knows his own play—after the dress-rehearsal.

IT is not so much our friends of whom we must be careful, but rather our friends' friends.

GENERALLY speaking, a woman is—generally speaking.

OFTEN the silence of a woman is not only eloquent but profane.

HALF the time while the man is thinking "I wonder if I dare?" the woman is thinking "I wonder why he doesn't?"

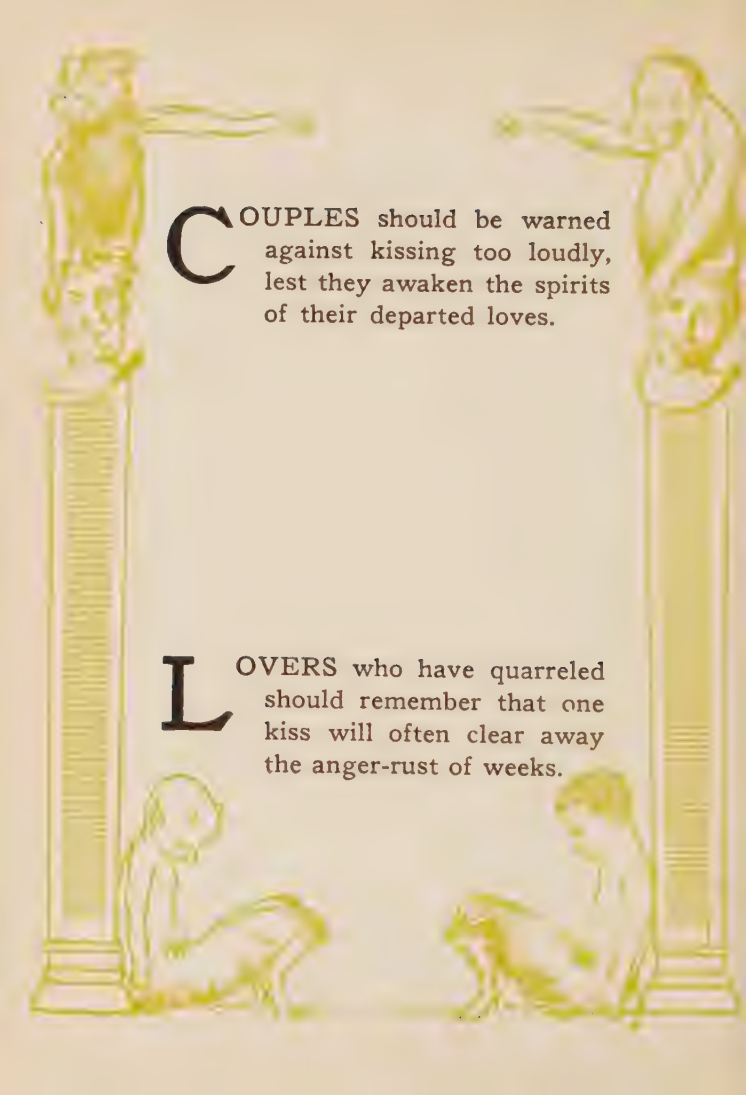
USUALLY when a woman tells her lover to "Go!" she means "Go—and come back."

AN American is never so energetic as when he tries to be idle.

A FOOL and his money are soon parted, but "parting is such sweet sorrow!"

HOW God must laugh at all our little creeds!

THE too tender heart is the world's pincushion.



COUPLES should be warned against kissing too loudly, lest they awaken the spirits of their departed loves.

LOVERS who have quarreled should remember that one kiss will often clear away the anger-rust of weeks.

TELL the world you are tired of life, and the world is tired of you.

THE prosperous can afford to smile, but needn't; the needy can't even afford to smile, but must.

WHEN a man complains that all women are alike, it is usually because some ***one*** woman has been so ***unlike.***

IN the female vocabulary, men may come and men may go, but shops go on forever.

WHAT is Success? Only Failure with a fresh coat of paint.

WE admire the man who knows, but we hate the man who *knows* he knows.

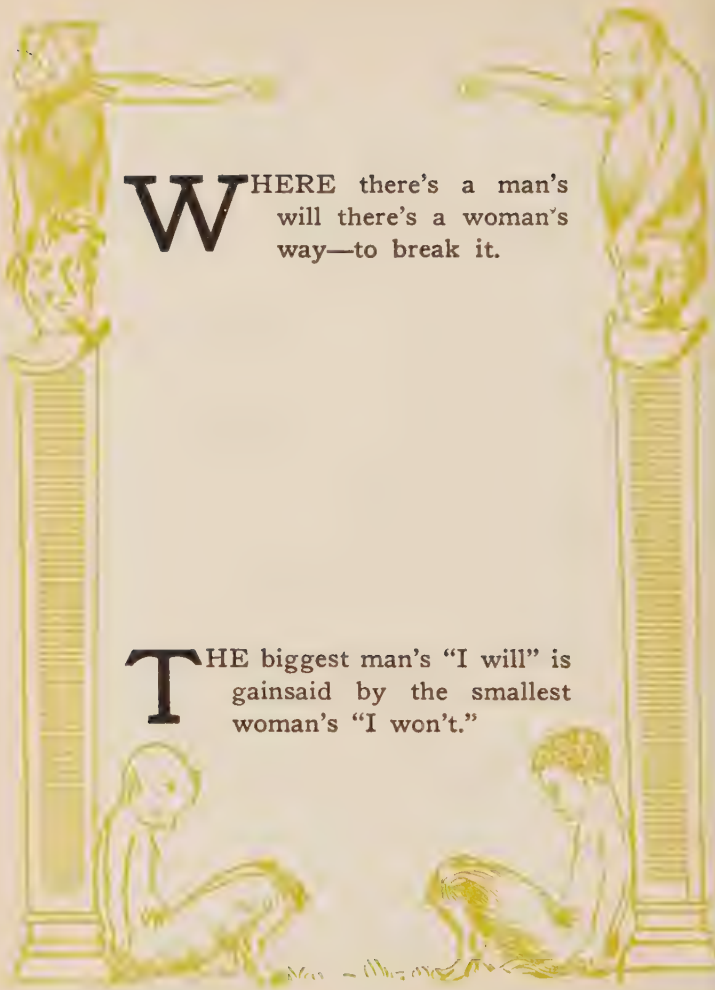
IT'S amazing how few of us care to leave "footprints on the sands of time." Provided one has the "sand" and the "time," it is so much pleasanter to take a carriage.

THE modern apartment is so small that there isn't even closet room for the family skeleton

THE glamour of a new love affair from time to time is tonic for some imaginative minds.

SOME women agree with their husbands—in name only.

A MAN doesn't know how to live until a woman has taught him, and then it often happens he prefers to live alone.



WHERE there's a man's will there's a woman's way—to break it.

THE biggest man's "I will" is gainsaid by the smallest woman's "I won't."

NO plain woman is quite certain she is plain. She is ever waiting for the man to come along who will say it is not so.

IN man's world, the ***right*** woman often gets ***left***.

A WOMAN in need is often a devil indeed.

WHEN Expectation dances in a man's eye, Victory already dances in a woman's heart.

TO outblot a sorrow, beget a greater. If you speculate in Love Street and fail, speculate in Wall.

WHEN Fortune turns a fellow down, the world turns its nose up.